

**REFLECTIONS**

No Jewish hearer of today's gospel passage would have failed to recognise that Jesus' parable was a picture of God and his people, Israel. The landowner (God) had planted a vineyard (God's people), and leased it to tenants (Israel's leaders). Those tenants had enjoyed privileged use of the vineyard, but consistently rejected and abused slaves (the prophets) sent by the landowner. The identity of the owner's son is crystal clear: Jesus himself. The parable was given in the context of the growing tensions between Jesus and the Jewish religious establishment. Not only had the leaders failed to heed the prophets' warnings, but also to welcome God coming to them in the ministry of Jesus. As a consequence the kingdom would be given to others, to those producing 'the fruits of the kingdom'. Salvation is no longer through the biblical nation of Israel but through another nation made up of Jews *and* Gentiles, all those who come to recognise the lordship of Jesus Christ.

**Going deeper...**

The rejected son of the parable becomes the rejected stone in a quotation from Psalm 118, written to celebrate Israel's deliverance from her enemies. Jesus uses it here to indicate his ultimate victory over death, through his resurrection on Easter Day: though rejected by the people he came to, Jesus becomes the chief cornerstone of a new Temple, his Church.

**I wonder...**

What does it mean for me to make Jesus Christ the cornerstone of my life?

Andy Colebrooke

**THIS WEEK'S SERVICES  
SUNDAY IN CHURCH**

St Marys Saffron Walden  
8am Holy Communion 1662 President: Andy Colebrooke  
6.30pm H2H Youth Led Service Leader: Matt Williamson  
Hadstock 9.30am Harvest Festival Leader: Paula Griffiths  
Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren  
Wimbish 9.15am Harvest Festival Leader: John Saxon

**THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ON ZOOM****SUNDAY**

10.00am Holy Communion President: Chris Bishop  
11.00am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

**TUESDAY**

5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Marisa Baltrock

**WEDNESDAY**

9.30am Holy Communion Alex Jeewan Hilary Walker

**NEXT SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
SERVICES IN CHURCH**

St Marys, Saffron Walden  
10am Holy Communion President: Michael Lovegrove  
Sewards End 9.30am Harvest Festival Leader: Chris Bishop  
Little Walden 11.15am Harvest Festival Leader: Tracey Nicholls  
Hadstock 9.30am Holy Communion<sup>1662</sup> President: Paula Griffiths  
Ashdon 9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren  
Debden 9.15am Harvest Festival Leader: John Saxon

# The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN, WIMBISH,  
DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK.

**Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity  
4<sup>th</sup> October 2020****Collect**

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**First Reading: *Philippians 3.4b-14***

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel: *Matthew 21.33-46***

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?' Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.' When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

**Post Communion**

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

See St Mary's Church, SW, website at  
[www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org) to find out more.

Please 'Like' our Facebook page so we reach more people! Click on the link on our website, or go to:  
[www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden](http://www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden)



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In October please pray for:  
**Ashdon Baptist Church, Ashdon Primary School**  
Those who are getting married at St Mary's, Saffron Walden on 10<sup>th</sup> October: **Samuel Maguire & Laura Johnson**  
**SERVICES IN CHURCH** Details are listed on the back page.  
**It is now compulsory to wear a mask** unless you have an exemption.

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

So far in our journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians, the theme of humility has been a key focus. Last week it was the great hymn of praise to Christ's humility: Jesus didn't regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave and being born in human likeness (Phil. 2:6,7). This week Paul describes his own approach to humility: his determination to put aside everything that has gone before and which has made up his previous status, in order that he may know Christ Jesus as his Lord. His background, his education, his standing in society, all these were things of the past; all that mattered now was his new identity in Christ.

No one enjoys people who are consumed with themselves. One US President, who shall remain nameless, was once asked about his own humility. He remarked: 'I think I am actually humble. I think I'm much more humble than you would understand.' On the other hand, when we come across someone with genuine humility we find ourselves drawn to them. I'm sure that we would all like to make progress in the humility stakes, but true humility is an elusive thing: as soon as we think we might be making progress with it, we are done for! It just cannot be gained by going at it directly, the more we attempt to pursue it, the more it retreats from us.

The Quaker Thomas Kelly wrote: 'Humility rests upon a Holy blindness, like the blindness of him who looks steadily into the sun. For wherever he turns his eyes on earth, there he sees only the sun. The God-blinded soul sees naught of self, naught of personal degradation or of personal eminence, but only the Holy Will.' Clearly Paul would have understood this, for he desired that the person of Christ should not be simply a part of his field of view, but that Christ would fill his entire vision. He set his eyes on Jesus alone, and so should we. As the old chorus goes: 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.'

With love and prayers,  
Andy Colebrooke

## PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Loving God, I choose this day to be a servant. I yield my right to command and demand. I give up my need to manage and control. I relinquish all schemes of manipulation and exploitation. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

*Richard Foster*

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Mon 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 71 & Acts 21:37-22.21 Evening Psalm 72
<b>Tue 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 73 & Acts 22:22-23.11 Evening Psalm 74 & Mark 14:12-25
<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 77 & Acts 23:12-end Evening Psalm 119:81-104
<b>Thurs 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 78:1-39 & Acts 24:1-33 Evening Psalm 78:40-end
<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 55 & Acts 24:24-25.12 Evening Psalm 69
<b>Sat 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 76 & Acts 25:13-end Evening Psalm 84

## NEWS

**Advance booking is advised to attend St Mary's, SW** as services are now close to capacity and we cannot guarantee that you will be able to enter the church if you haven't booked. Please book your place online using the link on the weekly bulletin or the website – alternatively, email or telephone the Parish Office before noon on the previous Friday, giving your name, telephone number and postcode. No booking is required for the village churches but, if the service has reached capacity, you may not be able to enter.

**PRIVATE PRAYER** St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, is open on Wednesdays and Sundays between 2pm and 4pm. *Gill Caswell* All Saints, Ashdon, is open on Wednesday and Sunday between 11am and 6.00pm.

**ONLINE SERVICES** are listed on the back page. Full joining details are available on the weekly email bulletin and on the website. Please email Dawn if you would like to be added to the bulletin distribution list.

**LIVE WORSHIP** by phone - you don't need a computer or tablet to join our services from home. If you would like to know more please contact Judith Hasler on 525041 or John Saxon on 541619.

**ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION:** in anticipation of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the roll for **Saffron Walden, Little Walden and Swards End** will be revised on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020. As well as expressing your commitment to the church, entry on the electoral roll entitles you to vote at the APCM. Application forms, which should be returned before 10<sup>th</sup> October, are available by downloading from the church website or by email from the parish office ([office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)) or from [electoralroll@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:electoralroll@stmaryssaffronwalden.org). **No action is required if your name is already on the new roll completed in 2019.** No names may be added to the roll between 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and the end of the APCM, except for the correction of errors. Completed forms may be emailed to [electoralroll@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:electoralroll@stmaryssaffronwalden.org) or posted to Electoral Roll Officer, 3 Orchard Close, Newport, Saffron Walden, CB11 3QT. The list of names, but not addresses, will be published for 14 days after completion of the revision and will be available for inspection thereafter. *Clifford Want*

**When did you last visit the ECO CHURCH pages of our website?** You'll find them under the 'Other' tab. The latest article is "Let's grasp the scale of the Challenge" and the one before, controversially was: "Let's not save the Planet." Meanwhile if you are involved in any environmental organisation or activity locally, please let us know: [edward@edwardgildea.co.uk](mailto:edward@edwardgildea.co.uk)

**A CHURCH NEAR YOU** The PCC has received a donation of £80, due to the generosity of Denis Dunstone, the author, from the sale of the first print. If you still have not acquired a copy a reprint is in hand, which will be available from the Tourist Office and Harts Bookshop. *Joe Hordern*

**ST MARY'S PRE SCHOOL** is looking to recruit volunteers as members of our Committee. A background in a pre-school environment is not necessary only that you are keen to join us in supporting an enthusiastic and dedicated staff providing an excellent and nurturing environment to the younger members of Saffron Walden. Due to COVID19, we are currently using zoom to meet so access to a computer is useful. Membership of the committee is subject to a satisfactory DBS check. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Sandra Marsh on [sandra\\_marshall@hotmail.com](mailto:sandra_marshall@hotmail.com)

**THE TRANSITION PROJECT** will recommence assistance online next Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, and are seeking further volunteers to join the team. Transition from one job to another can be a very stressful time and the Project's work is intended to help with sympathetic ears and a command of English chiefly to advise on preparation of CVs. No more than the equivalent of one morning's work a week is expected. If you believe you can assist do ring Gerald Gardner for further information on 01799 500543.

## MINISTRY TEAM

Parish Administrator: Dawn Saxon	01799 506024
Email: <a href="mailto:office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org">office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org</a>	
Pastoral Assistant: Judith Hasler	01799 525041
Email: <a href="mailto:judithhasler@btopenworld.com">judithhasler@btopenworld.com</a>	
Revd Paula Griffiths	01799 599141
Revd Tim Hardingham	01799 542874
Revd Alex Jeewan	01799 531153
Revd John Saxon	01799 541619
Revd Dr Caroline Currer	01799 584839